

Claim Listing under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c):

Amend claims 21-28, 32-40 and 44-46 and add claims 60-75 as follows and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c), by which the Applicant submits the following marked up version only for claims being changed by the current amendment, wherein the markings are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and/or underlining (for added matter).

Amendment to Claims

Claim 21 (currently amended) A stringed musical instrument comprising:

a body,
a neck extending outwardly from said body,
a head located opposite said body on said neck,
at least one string extending from said body to said head, said at least one
string having a first end and a second end, [means]
a first mechanism on said head for supporting and forming a first critical
point for said at least one string, [means]
a second mechanism on said body for supporting and forming a second
[first] critical point for said at least one string,
said first end secured to said head and said second end secured to said
body, and
[wherein said stringed musical instrument includes]a tuning adjustment
device comprising:
a first portion [means for] to tension [bringing] said at least one string
to [proper] playing pitch from an untensioned condition to at
least one pitch tuning, quickly and

a [separate means] second portion [whereby said at least one string is
] to further tension said at least one string[pitch tuned] at[said
proper] playing pitch.

Claim 22 (currently amended) An apparatus of claim 21 wherein said tuning
adjustment device is located on said body further comprising:[]
at least one anchor connected with said second end, and
at least one [additional separate means] third portion for pivoting said at
least one anchor about an axis that is transverse to the axis of said at
least one string in a first direction [for]to tension[ing] said at least
one string to said at least one pitch tuning.

Claim 23 (currently amended) An apparatus of claim 21 wherein said tuning
adjustment device is located on said head, further comprising:[]
at least one anchor connected with said first end, and[]at least one
[additional separate means]
a third portion for pivoting said at least one anchor about an axis that is
transverse to the axis of said at least one string in a first direction
[for]to tension[ing] said at least one string to said at least one pitch
tuning.

Claim 24 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 23 wherein said tuning
adjustment device further comprises at least one lock to impede pivoting
said at least one [additional separate means] third portion in a second
direction.

Claim 25 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 24 wherein said at least one
lock allows pivoting of said at least one [second separate means] third

portion in said first direction while impeding pivoting of said at least one [additional separate means] third portion in said second direction.

Claim 26 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 24 wherein said at least one lock further comprises a plurality of spaced-apart stops to impede pivoting said at least one [additional separate means] third portion in said second direction.

Claim 27 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 24 wherein said at least one lock further comprises at least one tooth [a plurality of teeth] formed on said at least one [second separate means] third portion that cooperates with at least one tooth to impede pivoting said at least one [additional separate means] third portion in said second direction.

Claim 28 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 23 wherein said [separate means] second portion further comprises at least one tuner [for varying] to vary the tension of said at least one string while said at least one [additional separate means] third portion is in a fixed location.

Claim 29 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 28 wherein said at least one tuner further comprises a thumbscrew.

Claim 30 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 28 wherein said at least one tuner further comprises a continuously variable element [for continuously varying] to continuously vary the tension in said at least one string.

Claim 31 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 28 wherein said at least one tuner adjusts the position of said anchor.

Claim 32 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 23 further comprising:

a nut and

a bridge;₁ []

wherein said nut comprises said first critical point and said bridge

comprises said second critical point,

wherein said a least one anchor is adjacent said nut opposite said second critical point.

Claim 33 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 23 further comprising:

a nut and

a bridge;₁ []

wherein said nut further comprises said first critical point and said bridge

further comprises said second critical point,

wherein said a least one anchor further comprises said nut opposite said second critical point.

Claim 34 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 23 wherein said at least one [additional separate means] third portion further comprises an L-shaped lever.

Claim 35 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 22 further comprising:

a nut and

at least one bridge;

wherein said nut further comprises said first critical point and said at least one bridge further comprises said second critical point for said at least one string,

wherein said at least one anchor is adjacent said at least one bridge opposite said first critical point and moveable therewith about said axis that is transverse to the axis of said at least one string.

Claim 36 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 22 further including:

a nut and

at least one bridge,

said nut further comprising said first critical point and said at least one bridge further comprising said second critical point for said at least one string, said bridge having a surface extending generally in the direction of said at least one string, wherein said at least one anchor further comprises said at least one bridge opposite said first critical point.

Claim 37 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 36 wherein said second critical point has at least one location on said at least one bridge, said at least one bridge having a curved surface, said at least one bridge being pivotably displaceable about said axis that is transverse to the axis of said at least one string, said second critical point travels a critical distance on said curved surface of said at least one bridge changing said at least one location of said second critical point [and simultaneously balances] establishing[the] harmonic tuning [with] at said [proper] playing pitch as said at least one

bridge is pivoted by [raising] tensioning said at least one string [from an untensioned condition]to said at least one pitch tuning.

Claim 38 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 37 wherein said adjustment device further comprises at least one lock to impede pivoting said at least one [additional separate means] third portion in a second direction.

Claim 39 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 38 wherein said at least one lock allows pivoting of said at least one [second separate means] third portion in said first direction while impeding pivoting of said at least one [additional separate means] third portion in said second direction.

Claim 40 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 32 wherein said at least one third portion further comprises an elongated lever.

Claim 41 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 39 wherein said adjustment device further comprises a tremolo.

Claim 42 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 39 wherein said adjustment device further comprises a fulcrum tremolo.

Claim 43 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 41 wherein said adjustment device further comprises a macro-tuner.

Claim 44 (currently amended) A stringed musical instrument comprising:

- a body,
- a neck extending outwardly from said body,
- a head located opposite said body on said neck,
- at least one string extending from said body to said head,
- said at least one string having a first end and a second end, [means]
- a first mechanism on said head [for supporting and forming] to support and
- form a first critical point for said at least one string, [means]
- a second mechanism on said body [for supporting and forming] to support
- and form a second critical point for said at least one string,
- said first end secured to said head and said second end secured to said
- body,
- at least one string anchor located opposite said body on said head, and
- [wherein said stringed musical instrument comprises]
- a[n] tuning adjustment device combining a [means] portion to [for]
- quickly tension [bringing] said at least one string to [proper]
- playing pitch from an untensioned condition at [at] least one
- of several [preset] pitch tunings [quickly],
- a separate [means] portion [whereby] to fine tune said at least one
- string [is finely tuned] at said [proper] playing pitch[and at
- least one gripping portion intermediate said nut and said at
- least one string anchor for gripping said at least one string].

Claim 45 (currently amended) A stringed musical instrument comprising:

a body,

a neck extending outwardly from said body,

a fulcrum tremolo,

a head located opposite said body on said neck,

at least one string extending from said body to said head, said at least one string having a first end and a second end, [means] a first mechanism on said head [for supporting and forming]to support and form a first critical point for said at least one string, [means]

a second mechanism on said fulcrum tremolo [for supporting and forming]to support and form a second critical point for said at least one string,

said first end secured to said head and said second end secured to said fulcrum tremolo,

said fulcrum tremolo [including] further comprising:

a bearing [means] portion [for adjustably mounting]to adjustably mount said fulcrum tremolo on said body for pivotal displacement, said bearing [means] portion [including] further comprising at least one bearing assembly, said bearing assembly further comprising[es] at least a portion of a ball bearing surface.

Claim 46 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 45 wherein said bearing assembly [includes]]further comprises at least one shaft connected to said fulcrum tremolo.

Claim 47 (New) A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument, the stringed musical comprising:
a neck engaging the first end of strings,
a body engaging the second end of the strings,
a first mechanism creating a first critical point on said neck, and
a second mechanism creating a second critical point on said body,
the fulcrum tremolo comprising:
at least one third mechanism [for raising and adjusting]to raise and adjust at least one of said strings to a pitched string condition from an untensioned condition, said at least one third mechanism comprising:
at least one bridge element forming a second critical point,
at least one elongated member located on said opposite side of said bridge element from the first critical point and disposed in spaced relationship to said at least one bridge element, and
said least one third mechanism being pivotably mounted about an axis extending transversely of said strings [for changing]to change the pitch of at least one of said strings.

Claim 48 (New) The fulcrum tremolo as set forth in Claim 47 wherein said at least one elongated member further comprises:
a first end closer to said at least one bridge element and
a second end more remote from said at least one bridge element,
said at least one elongated member forming a passageway extending from the first end thereof toward the second end,
said at least one string being arranged to extend through said passageway and to be secured to said at least one third mechanism at a point spaced from said first end of said at least one elongated member, wherein said at least one elongated member is pivotably displaceable between a first limiting position and a second limiting position and

said first end of said at least one elongated member is in spaced relation from said at least one bridge element in and between said first and second limiting positions.

Claim 49 (New) The fulcrum tremolo as set forth in Claim 48 further comprising an elongated displacement mechanism displacing said at least one elongated portion between said first and second limiting positions.

Claim 50 (New) The fulcrum tremolo set forth in Claim 49 wherein said at least one elongated member has a surface extending in the direction between the first and second ends thereof, said elongated displacement mechanism further comprises an elongated threaded member operable to contact said surface to pivot said at least one elongated member.

Claim 51 (New) A bridge-tailpiece for a stringed musical instrument, said stringed musical instrument having at least one string, said bridge-tailpiece being pivotable about an axis that is transverse to the axis of said at least one string, said bridge-tailpiece further comprising at least one macro-tuner, and pivotable therewith the bridge-tailpiece, wherein pivoting said bridge-tailpiece simultaneously changes the pitch of at least one of said strings.

Claim 52 (New) A bridge-tailpiece for a stringed musical instrument, said stringed musical instrument having at least one string, said bridge-tailpiece being pivotable about an axis that is transverse to the axis of said at least one string wherein said bridge-tailpiece is operable to raise[s] and adjust[s] at least one of said strings to a playing pitch from an untensioned condition.

Claim 53 (New) A bridge-tailpiece as set forth in claim 52 wherein said bridge-tailpiece further comprises a bearing portion [for adjustably mounting]to adjustably mount said bridge-tailpiece on a body of said stringed musical instrument for pivotal displacement, said bearing portion further comprising at least one bearing assembly, said bearing assembly further comprising[es] at least a portion of a ball bearing surface.

Claim 54 (New) A stringed musical instrument as set forth in claim 44 further comprising at least one additional contact point intermediate said nut and said at least one string anchor [for making contact]to make contact with said at least one string.

Claim 55 (New) A stringed musical instrument comprising:
a body, and
a bridge-tailpiece comprising a bearing portion [for adjustably mounting]to adjustably mount said bridge-tailpiece on said body for pivotal displacement of the bridge-tailpiece,
said bearing portion comprising at least one bearing assembly, said bearing assembly further comprising[es] at least a portion of a ball bearing surface.

Claim 56 (New) Apparatus of claim 55 wherein said bearing assembly further comprises at least one shaft connected to said bridge-tailpiece.

Claim 57 (New) A bridge-tailpiece for a stringed musical instrument, the bridge-tailpiece comprising:
at least one string attached to the bridge-tailpiece,
said bridge-tailpiece being pivotable about an axis that is transverse to the axis of the at least one string,

said bridge-tailpiece is operable to raise and adjust the tension of the at least one of said strings to at least one playing pitch from an untensioned condition, and wherein as said bridge-tailpiece is pivoted by the tensioning of said at least one string to said playing pitch, wherein tensioning said at least one string to said playing pitch simultaneously achieves harmonic tuning and pitch tuning.

Claim 58 (New) Apparatus of claim 57 wherein said bridge-tailpiece further comprises a fulcrum tremolo.

Claim 59 (New) A bridge-tailpiece for a stringed musical instrument comprising:
a body, and
a fulcrum tremolo, comprising a bearing assembly, said bearing assembly comprising at least one ball bearing and a bearing housing, wherein said ball bearing member is mounted in said bearing housing and a shaft is connected to said fulcrum tremolo, said bearing assembly being operable to adjustably position said bearing housing relative to said body.

Claim 60 (New) A stringed musical instrument, the stringed musical instrument comprising:
a neck,
a body,
at least one string,
said neck engaging the first end of said at least one string,
a first mechanism creating a first critical point for said at least one string on said neck, and

a second mechanism creating a second critical point for said at least one string on said fulcrum tremolo,
said fulcrum tremolo comprising:

at least one bearing assembly comprising at least a portion of a ball bearing surface,

at least one bridge element forming a second critical point, and

at least one elongated member located on the opposite side of said bridge element from said first critical point and disposed in spaced relationship to said at least one bridge element, said at least one elongated member forming a passageway extending from the first end thereof toward the second end,

said at least one string being arranged to extend through said passageway and to be secured at a point spaced from said first end of said at least one elongated member,

wherein said at least one elongated member is pivotably displaceable between a first limiting position and a second limiting position and said first end of said at least one elongated member is in spaced relation from said at least one bridge element in and between said first and second limiting positions.

Claim 61 (New) The fulcrum tremolo set forth in Claim 60 wherein said at least one elongated member further comprises:

a surface extending in the direction between the first and second ends thereof, and

an elongated threaded member operable to contact said surface to pivot said at least one elongated member.